

Hi, everyone!

I am Gary Paulsen, the writer. I am here today to introduce my most successful book, *"Hatchet"*. It is about a thirteen year old boy, Brian who is going to see his father in Northern Canada. His parents are divorced and he lives with his mother in New York. To spend his summer with his father in Canada, he has to take a small private plane to get there. During the flight the pilot dies of a heart attack and suddenly Brian becomes alone. I will recite a passage that describes what Brian experienced when that happened.

"The pilot was having a heart attack and even as the knowledge came to Brian he saw the pilot slam into the seat one more time, one more awful time he slammed back into the seat and his right leg jerked, pulling the plane to the side in a sudden twist and his head fell forward and spit came. Spit came from the corners of his mouth and his legs contracted up, up into the seat, and his eyes rolled back in his head until there was only white. Only white for his eyes and the smell became worse, filled the cockpit, and all of its so fast, so incredibly fast that Brian's mind could not take it in at first. Could only see it in stages."

"Hatchet" is about Brian's struggle to survive in Canadian wilderness after the plane crash. In fact, I have written more than 175 books so far and *"Hatchet"* is one of many adventurous books I wrote for children and young adults. I have written *"Brian's Return"*, *"Brian's Winter"*, *"The River"*, and *"Brian's Hunt"* which are sequel to *"Hatchet"*, plus, *"World of Adventure Series"* which is my other famous series of books.

As you can see, I enjoy writing books that depict thrilling adventures in nature. In fact, I, myself, was in many situations where I had to face with difficulties in order to survive. I was born in Minnesota, United States on May 17th, 1939. I ran away from home at the age of fourteen and traveled with a carnival, which enabled me to acquire a taste for adventure and an appreciation for nature. Even after I finished my university education, my passion for adventure and outdoor life never ceased. I fell in love with sled dogs and the sport of dog racing in 1980 and it helped me to write *"Brian's Winter"*, *"Dog Song"*, and *"Wood Song"*. I learned to harmonize with nature by observing and caring about nature. I want my readers to learn the same lesson by reading my stories.

I guess that my readers really appreciate the lesson and vicarious pleasure that I offered through *"Hatchet"*. Because it made me a Newberry Honor author. What makes *"Hatchet"* stand out for me was the surviving experience that I had to endure in order to figure out what it was like to survive in the woods with little

or nothing. I also ate a raw turtle egg and made a fire with a rock and a hatchet. The raw turtle egg tasted like old motor oil and it took me almost four hours to make a fire with a rock and a hatchet. So, do not try any of them at home! If you are curious, please just read my book. Lastly, I want to share this passage with you.

“Another set of strikes, more sparks. He leaned and blew, but gently this time, holding back and aiming the stream of air from his mouth to hit the brightest spot. Five or six sparks had fallen in a tight mass of bark hair and Brian centered his efforts there. The sparks grew with his gentle breath. The red glow moved from the sparks themselves into the bark, moved and grew and became worms, glowing red worms that crawled up the bark hairs and caught other threads of bark and grew until there was a pocket of red as big as a quarter, a glowing red coal of heat. “

Brian's journey is thrilling, touching, and meaningful. It is not easy to learn how to cope with nature unless you know and appreciate nature. If you read this book, not only you can enjoy the exciting adventure that Brian went through, but also you can learn what he learned. Thank you!